RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 7th July, 2004/16 *Asadha,* 1926 *(Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri Dilip Singh Judev (Chhattisgarh)

Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal (Madhya Pradesh)

Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi (Maharashtra)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Priorities in the power sector

*41. DR. T. SUBBARAMI RE DDY.†

SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Power has listed five priorities in the power sector during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rural electrification is one of the priorities of the Government; and

(d) if so, what are the steps being considered to be taken in this regard during 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr T. Subbarami Reddy.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rural electrification is the top priority of the Government. The other priorities include:

- Addition to generating capacity.
- Augmentation of National Transmission Network and creation of a robust National Grid.
- Power Sector Reform with emphasis on Distribution Reforms.
- Formulation of important policies such as National Electricity Policy, Electricity Tariff Policy, Rural Electrification Policy for speedy implementation of Electricity Act, 2003.
- Energy Conservation measures aimed at efficient use of electricity.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government has worked out a strategy for rural electrification which envisages:

(i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB), to ensure at least one 33/11 KV sub-station in each block appropriately networked and linked to the State transmission system;

(ii) Village electrification consisting of 11KV feeders emanating from the 33/11 KV sub-station and at least one distribution transformer in every village

(iii) Household electrification from the distribution transformer.

(iv) Deployment of other technology options such as decentralized distributed generation for villages and remote areas where conventional grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Minister has given top priority for electrification of villages in the country. He has also mentioned that the Government of India is determined to electrify all the villages in the country by 2007 and by 2009, the Government wanted to electrify all the 7.8 crores of households in the country. For this purpose, the Ministry requires Rs. 17,000 crores to meet the infrastructure

needs, etc If he is not able to give reply right now, he may send the reply to me in writing. I would like to know from the hon Minister how is he going to achieve the target of electrification of all the villages by 2007 and electrifying all households by 2009?

SHRI P M SAYEED Mr Chairman, Sir, we have travelled a long-way from 1947 when we had only 1,500 villages electrified in the country Our per capita consumption was 15 kw per year. Now, we have reached a stage that we have been able to electrify 4,76,000 villages and our per capita consumption, in the year 2004, is 582 kw per year. On the generation side, I would like to say that we have a very massive plan of capacity addition and also we have a big plan on the transmission side. But, on the distribution side, we are finding some difficulty So, in order to remove bottlenecks, the Government of India has planned in a very big way to augment transmission system by linking it to the villages The top priority of the Government is to reach the last village of the country. Our top priority is village electrification We are paying our attention on it. For this purpose, we have envisaged certain strategy which helps in reaching to the village level Sir, now, 44 per cent of our village households are electrified But, still, we have to cover 56 per cent of villages Though we have achieved some progress in certain States, the position in five States is dismal The position of un-electrified households in certain States is very alarming. There are five such States I can mention the names of these States The States are Assam is having 83 46 per cent of villages to be electrified, Bihar is having 94 87 per cent

श्री सभापति: आप यह स्टेटमेंट टेबल पर रख दीजिए।

ASHRI P M SAYEED I can place the details on the Table of the House

Sir, the hon Member has also mentioned how the Government is going to augment the resources. The Common Minimum Programme of the united Progressive Alliance emphasises that electrification of 7 8 crores of village households have been taken up as a challenge and by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan, we are going to reach every village household

श्री सभापति: थोडा सप्लीमेंटरी के लिए भी रिज़र्व रखिए।

DR T SUBBARAMI REDDY. Sir, my second supplementary is this I also congratulate the hon Minister for having the ambitious plan to enhance the power generation in the country As on today, we have got only

1 21 lakh mw available in the country. The Government's plan is to have a capacity addition of 40,000 mw in the Tenth Plan and 60,000 mw in the Eleventh Plan There is going to be 1 1 lakh mw increase in it There is a feeling that red tapism is going on in the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of Finance while encouraging private investment Sir, I would like these details in writing from the hon Minister, not now, but afterwards As on today, how many projects are pending in the Ministry of Power? How are you going to achieve the target and will you accelerate the construction activity of the power projects in the entire country? Lastly, a lot of investment has been made in the Hinduja power project at Visakhapatnam, but it has not yet been taken off May I know from the Minister when the Government is going to start the plant at Visakhapatnam?

SHRI P M SAYEED Sir, primarily, the distribution in the States is the responsibility of the States And whatever the Central Government is doing is a supplementary to what the States are doing Now, Sir, at the end of the Tenth Plan, our target is to achieve additional capacity of 41,000 mw And at the end of the Eleventh Plan, our target is to achieve additional capacity of 60,000 mw Sir, in this Tenth Plan, now two years have already passed and the achievement for these two years is significant We have already achieved 8000 mw capacity *(Interruptions)* That is something different Sir, for generating 25,000 mw, work has already started and for generating 7000 mw, work is already in progress Therefore, there is no hesitation in saying that we will be able to reach the target

DR T SUBBARAMI REDDY Sir, I want a detailed report on that

SHRI P M SAYEED You will get it

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारुपाल: आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, मै प्रश्न सख्या 41 के सबंध में सिर्फ इतना ही पूछना चाहूंगी कि केंद्र सरकार ने प्राथमिकता के आधार पर जो योजनाएं बनाई हैं, क्या इन योजनाओं के तहत बीकानेर ज़िले में बरसिंगसर लिग्नाइट विद्युत परियोजना जो वर्षों से लंबित पड़ी है, उसे शीघ्र चालू करने का क्या आप विचार रखते हैं और इसकी पूर्ति कब तक की जाएगी जिससे कि बीकानेर, जोधपुर तक सब लोगों को इसका लाभ मिल सके? एक छोटा सा प्रश्न और है...

श्री सभापति: इसमें बरसिंगसर सब आ गया है।

श्री पी० एम० सईद: सभापति जी, आदरणीय सदस्या ने इनफॉर्मेशन मांगी है वह इस समय मेरे पास उपलब्ध नहीं है। मैं माननीय सदस्या को यह इनफार्मेशन बाद में भिजवा दूंगा।

श्री सभापति: डीटेल में भेज दीजिएगा।

श्री पी॰ एम॰ सईद: जी, डीटेल में भेज दूंगा।

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारुपाल: डीटेल तो मिल जाएगा सर। डीटेल तो लिखित में मिल जाता है, काम भी बहुत अच्छा कर रहे हैं, लेकिन

श्री सभापति: आप बैठिए, मैं देख लूंगा।

श्रीमती जमना देवी बारुपाल: महोदय, 55 वर्षों के बाद भी जो ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के लोग हैं, उनके घरों में आज भी दीपक टिमटिमा रहा है, इसलिए इन ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों को प्राथमिकता दी जानी चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है। माननीय सदस्यगण, प्रश्न के सप्लीमैंटरी क्वेश्चन्स के लिए मेरे पास जो नाम आए हैं, वे सब पुराने सदस्यों के नाम हैं। यदि आपकी अनुमति हो तो कुछ दिनों के लिए नए सदस्यों को प्रश्न पूछने के लिए मैं अनुमति दूं ताकि वे सप्लीमैंटरी प्रश्न पूछना सीख सकें।...(व्यवधान)..

श्री संजय निरुपम: महोदय, इसको आप जनरलाइज़ न करें।

श्री सभापति: जनरलाइज़ नहीं कर रहा हूं।

श्री संजय निरुपम: आप इसको जनरलाइज न करें कि सारे के सारे क्वेश्चन्स उनको दे दें।

श्री सभापति: नहीं, सारे नहीं। मैं तो केवल एक-दो दिनों के लिए ही कर रहा हूं। कोई लंबा-चौडा नहीं कर रहा हूं।

श्री संजय निरुपम: सर, मेरा निवेदन यही है कि इसको आप जनरलाइज़ न करें और हमें भी एलाऊ किया जाए।

श्री सभापति: मैं जनरलाइज़ नहीं कर रहा हू। श्री आर॰ सरथ कुमार, पूछिए।

SHRI R SARATH KUMAR Sir, an important question was put by Dr T Subbarami Reddy He requested the hon Minister as to how he is going to mobilise Rs 17,000/- crores that are required for 2007-09 The question remained unanswered I would like the Minister to answer that part of the question

SHRI P M SAYEED Sir, it is true that for a massive programme on hand, funds should also be made available Once we have committed ourselves to such a programme, we will find out ways and means for achieving it But, now, at the moment, it is difficult for me to spell out what is going to be done

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: महोदय, क्या माननीय मन्त्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सारे काम को करने के लिए जनरेशन के साथ-साथ चोरी कम करना और छीजक समाप्त करना एक बहुत बड़ा उपाय है। क्या वे इस नाते से कोई कदम उठा रहे हैं ताकि अपने लक्ष्य की पूर्ति कर सकें?

श्री पी० एम० सईद: महोदय, जो माननीय सदस्य का कहना है, वह बिल्कुल ठीक हैं। देश में बिजली चोरी 35 फीसदी है।

श्री सभापति: ट्रांसमिशन लॉसेज कितना है?

श्री पी० एम० सईद: यह 15 परसेंट है।

श्री सभापति: इसका मतलब कुल 50 परसेंट हो गया है?

श्री पी०एम० सईद: महोदय, हां यह 50 परसेंट हो गया है। इसका मतलब यह है कि हमको बिजली एक्ट के मुताबिक बड़े जोर से और सादगी से अमल करना ही पड़ेगा। वैसे तो वेस्ट बंगाल ने बहुत अच्छे कदम उठाए हैं। हमें उसकी सराहना करनी चाहिए क्योंकि उनके कदम से उनको बहुत फायदा पहुंचा है। इसी तरह हर स्टेट को...

श्री सभापति: मैं सदस्यों को दूसरा सप्लीमैंटरी करने की इजाजत नहीं दूंगा।

DR K MALAISAMY: Sir, the rural electrification is assuming the top priority, and the strategy has been listed out. It is well taken. But the point is, the rural electrification, according to the Minister, has so far been done only to the extent of 45 per cent or 46 per cent As per his observation, the Government is trying to complete it before the end of 2007 Sir, since the time available between now and the targeted date is very, very short, I am very much afraid, whether the priority can be implemented at all. I am not saying that only this Government has given the priority in this regard The priority for the rural electrification has been given by the consecutive Governments But the fact remains that it is moving at a snail's speed Whatever strategy they are going to adopt or whatever it is, according to me, it is most impractical because resource constraint is there, manpower constraint is there, and technological constraint is also there. But, even with all that, the Minister is able to assure now that it can be done before 2007 or whatever the targeted date is. Sir, I very much like to hear from him whether the time-frame which is given, can be kept up That is my first question That is number one Now, .. *(Interruptions)* ..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one question is allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*. .

DR K. MALAISAMY: Sir, it is one question only. It is part one. Part two of my question is, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR CHAIRMAN: Only part one is allowed. Keep part two of your question for some future time.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, keeping in view the National Common Minimum Programme, the following priorities have been decided in the Ministry for development and growth of power, that is, rural electrification. They are : addition to generating capacity, augmentation of national transmission network, power sector reform with emphasis on distribution reforms, energy conservation with a view to efficient functioning of the electricity department. Sir, our target is not 2007, our target is 2009. *(Interruptions)*...

DR K MALAISAMY: Even then ...

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: That is, within five years, this Government is committed to see that 7.8 crore village households get electricity. For that, we have envisaged the rural infrastructure programme. For each block, there will be 33/11 KV sub-station and the village electrification is consisting of 11 KV feeders in each village which distributes/transfers electricity to each village. Thirdly, Sir, there is household electrification from the distribution transformers. Therefore, we have got a definite plan to reach everywhere, supported by the Rural Electrification Corporation which will be strengthened and the funds will also be made available to them. Not only the funds will be made available, but the material reserves will also be supervised by the Rural Electrification Corporation.

Steps to bring holistic development in rural areas

*42 PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:†
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring about holistic development and overall improvement in the quality of life in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified that marketing is a major bottleneck in rural artisans' upliftment and has decided to hold an

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya